



EAGC QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period of:	October to December 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	July .2013	Project end date:	Dec.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of October-December 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-EATH funding support. The activities are being implemented following a cost extension granted to EAGC in June 2013. The extension was aimed at carrying out the following activities:

- a) Design and produce marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition
- b) Maintain market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN to support timely, relevant and timely Market Intelligence to EAGC members
- c) Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.
- d) Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.
- e) Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

2. Summary of Accomplished Activities in Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec) 2013

1. EAGC Regional and Country Office Operations

Through the funding from USAID EATH, EAGC continued to deliver services to its members and stakeholders across the region. The regional and country offices in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania were fully operational. During the last quarter of year 2013, the following changes occurred:

- a) Two new staff were recruited as shown below:
 - **Mr. Johannes Osarya** – Country Program Manager – Tanzania
Mr. Osarya will be in-charge of managing the EAGC program activities in Tanzania. He has over 10 years work experience in management of program activities and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania. Before joining EAGC, he worked for World Vision and UNDP in Tanzania.
 - **Mr. Gideon Murenga** – Program Officer – Training and Capacity Building
He will be responsible for training programs under the Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI). Mr. Murenga

has over 2 years work experience in training and he holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Egerton University.

- b) Membership recruitment continued with 3 new members joining EAGC- (Blue-Byid Agro Corp Ltd-Uganda, John Deere-Kenya and Bunge East Africa-Kenya.

2. Maintain Market and Border Monitors Submitting Daily Price Data To RATIN To Support Timely, Relevant And Timely Market Intelligence To EAGC Members

During this period, EAGC continued collecting, collating and disseminating data through the EAGC - Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (www.ratin.net). EAGC Data Collection continued in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. The data was uploaded timely to support in real time provision of data. The collection of market data was facilitated by the EAGC monitors at the selected markets and border points. New monitors for Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Isebania (Uganda-Kenya border) and Masindi (Uganda) markets were recruited.

The RATIN data was analysed and the following reports on key aspects of food prices in the region produced and disseminated to grain stakeholders:

- EAGC RATIN market data analyzed and the weekly reports produced in time and sent out to grain stakeholders. These reports are available on <http://www.ratin.net/index.php/ratin-tools/downloads>
- Monthly cross border report developed and uploaded on the EAGC RATIN site.
- The daily grain news monitored, packaged and sent out for EAGC members.
- EAGC membership updates which capture all the EAGC monthly activities produced and sent to members.

The RATIN website has been used by various grain stakeholders across the region. EAGC has been tracking the amount of traffic on the website and it shows that a total of visits of 16,872 were recorded in the period. (See the table below).

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Oct-13	3,422	6,106	100,475	950,209
Nov-13	3,516	5,828	59,045	1,058,672
Dec-13	2,434	4,938	79,067	1,165,542
Total	9,372	16,872	238,587	3,174,423

3. Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.

In the 4th quarter of 2013, EAGC was involved in the identification and recruitment of new warehouses. It also offered training on RTVT application to new and participating warehouses. In December, EAGC team enrolled three new warehouses in Burundi (2) and Kenya (1) to participate and submit data under the RTVT program. The recruited warehouses were trained on the mobile application and data entry. In Uganda, 2 warehouses already

participating in RTVT were re-trained and the application software updated.

The total number of warehouses that have joined RTVT is 21 as shown below:

- Uganda - 10
- Tanzania - 5
- Kenya - 4
- Burundi - 2

4. Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.

EAGC continued engaging the private sector contributors in the regional food balance sheet. During the period the following achievements were noted:

- a) The private sector contributors increased from 67 by end of October 2013, to 83 by end of December 2013. Below is a table that show the growth of RFBS data contributors:

No.of Contributors	Kenya	Uganda	Tanzania	Rwanda	Burundi	TOTAL
October 2013	11	22	15	10	9	67
November 2013	12	25	18	12	11	78
December 2013	12	30	20	11	10	83

- b) Private sector contributors to the food balance sheet trained. This was done through one to one visits with the contributors in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. In Kenya, the team visited Mama Millers and Export Trading, In Uganda, the country team travelled to Jinja to support the private sector, Rwanda team visited Enas and Sopav companies, while in Tanzania, the team travelled to Mwanza and Mbeya, to support the private sector in data submission in the RFBS.
- c) EAGC submitted a paper on the food situation based on the Regional Food Balance Sheet data analysis to the Office of the President in Kenya. This was done in October 2013 at the request from the President's office. The paper was meant to guide on the steps to take to ensure food security in the country. A follow-up meeting was later held with the EAGC management and the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Felix Koskei. During the meeting, it was agreed that EAGC will be presenting the food balance sheet on a quarterly basis.

5. Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

In the months of October and November, EAGC and EATH visited 4 countries-Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi to create awareness on the recently harmonized EAC Staple Foods Standards. During the visits, the several stakeholders were met including USAID bilateral missions, government institutions, farmer organizations, food aid agencies and private sector stakeholders. Most of the institutions met are working closely with the farmers and traders and therefore can help in dissemination of standards and also offer training to them. The

promotional materials for new EAC standards were shared and various discussions on the implementation of new standards were held.

In each country a stakeholders' forum was held to deliberate on the development of the grain industry and seek ways of creating partnerships in the promotion of the structured grain trading initiatives that are in place. During this forum EAGC and EATH presented the new EAC standards, Regional Food Balance Sheet, EAC Trade Help Desk, Simplified certificate of Origin, Sanitary & Phytosanitary Standards and Joint Border Committees.

Some of the key issues that emanated out of these visits are:

- The issue of discoloration in Uganda is an impediment to maize trade-particularly in the export market and therefore the cause of discoloration need to be investigated.
- Some quality parameters e.g. material damage, broken grains and discoloration are not well interpret in the promotional materials.
- The implementation of the EAC standards needs to intensified since most of the grain value chain actors are not aware and are not using standards.
- The grading/test methods are harmonizes regionally and therefore there is need to hold a regional workshop to harmonize grading methods.
- Inspection Companies and Grading Agents have limited skills on testing some quality parameters. The Graders should therefore be trained on testing methods.

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) 5th African Grain Trade Summit 2013

EAGC hosted the 5th African Grain Trade Summit in Mombasa in October, 1-3, 2013. The summit attracted approximately 200 delegates and media personalities from over 22 countries all over the world to talk about "Africa" as the emerging frontier for Global Investments in Grain Trade. Over 150 organizations were represented in the summit and this created very rich grounds for networking for the delegates. The diversity of the delegates and speakers brought out deep and meaningful discussions among the delegates, speakers and panellists which helped in the realization of the summit objectives.

The summit was graced by high ranking government and private sector executives who have reported to have learned a great deal and made good networking connections that promise to convert and produce business partnerships. A total of 16 sponsors and partners teamed up with EAGC in this venture.

ii) ATPAF-ESA Forum held in Nairobi

On October 29th 2013, a consultative meeting of the Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATPAF-ESA) was held. ATPAF-ESA is a forum coordinated by EAGC in partnership with various

international organizations notably the UN-FAO, and with the objective of promoting an inclusive and participatory policy dialogue between private and public sector for improved regional agricultural trade in ESA. The overall objective of the meeting was to cluster ATPAF – ESA, Core Member Organizations around the four pillars to contribute to countries' & regions' increased awareness of, and capacity to analyze developments in international agricultural markets, agricultural trade policies and trade rules, and to identify trade opportunities and to formulate appropriate & effective pro-poor trade policies and strategies, at both national and regional levels. Clusters were strategically formed to ensure proper and balanced representation in each pillar.

iii) EAGC Staff Attend Training on “Managing your USAID Awards”

EAGC key staff attended a staff training on “Managing your USAID Awards” –from 12th – 15th November 2013 at the Windsor Hotel, Nairobi Kenya. The training was conducted by ALIM Assist and USAID East Africa and it aimed at providing understanding of USAID Expectations under the grant Agreements, transferring Knowledge, skill and resources for successful implementation of a USAID Grant and indentifying areas for Organisation performance improvement required to successfully implement a USAID Grant.

iv) EAGC at the National Agribusiness Strategy meeting

EAGC participated in the development of the implementation plan for the National Agribusiness Strategy at the KCB leadership centre, from 20th – 22nd November. The meeting was organized by the Agriculture Sector Coordinating Unit (ASCU). The meeting was attended by the private sectors who are the key drivers of the Agribusiness Strategy. At the meeting EAGC was selected as a key model to drive the implementation of the strategy. EAGC was mandated to develop the key areas of success as the key areas to drive the strategy including the Regional Market Information System – www.ratin.net, and the warehouse receipt system among other key achievement. At the end of the meeting the sector agreed on 4 key priority areas which include Lobby and Advocacy, Communication and Knowledge management, and Professionalization of the agribusiness sector to support inclusion of youth in Agriculture. It was agreed, that a private sector led body in form of a council of key representatives of the sector will support the implementation of the strategy. EAGC will be a key partner in the implementation process. A copy of the strategy is found on:

http://www.kilimo.go.ke/kilimo_docs/pdf/National_AgriBusiness_Strategy.pdf

4. Activities planned for January 2014:

- i) Complete the Country Road Shows on EAC Standards by meeting the Kenyan stakeholders and holding a one-day forum to share the new EAC standards. This is expected to increase awareness on the new EAC standards and assess the envisaged implementation challenges.
- ii) Carry out the Kenya Road Show on Regional Food Balance Sheet. This event will enable EAGC to meet potential RFBS data contributor, share the benefits of RFBS and review the current position of stocks in Kenya.
- iii) Conduct three National Food Balance Sheet validation meetings in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda.
- iv) Install RTVT in new warehouses identified in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi.
- v) Continuous engagement of Market & Border monitors and recruitment of new market

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Activity	Sub Activities	Evaluation Indicators	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop EAGC stakeholder engagement and membership development strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with COMPETE to identify local experts who can support the development of EAGC membership Strategy. Engage a consultant to develop EAGC membership Strategy <i>(to be financed by COMPETE)</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership development strategy developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resumes for Local Experts identified and submitted to EATH. EATH meant to finance the development of the strategy. This activity is pending.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize EAGC marketing materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the EAGC marketing materials with top reasons to join EAGC, program successes and highlights. Engage public relations and marketing consultant/firm to design and print the marketing materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC marketing materials developed % increase in EAGC membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Proposals to source public relations and marketing consultant/firm developed and circulated. Printing to be done by end of Dec.2013.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing of the EAGC new STS Handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the development of the STS handbook Print 500 copies of the STS Handbook 2nd Edition <i>(to be financed by COMPETE)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of EAGC STS Handbook printed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STS Handbook launched during the 5th AGTS in Mombasa. Printing of the books under EATH funding will be done in the next phase of funding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation of awareness materials for new EAC Quality Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and validate the promotional materials for EAC standards. Translate the promotional materials into local dialect..<i>(to be financed by COMPETE)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents translated and printed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was to be done by EATH in partnership with EAGC. The promotional materials are still in draft and they need proof reading and editing. Translation to begin once the materials are reviewed and edited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct training workshops on harmonized EAC quality standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize training workshops to training graders from the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of graders Level of adoption and implementation of new standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graders not trained. It was proposed that awareness forums be held instead. Training of graders is to be done in the next phase of funding. Country Roadshows on new EAC Standards held in Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda pending Kenya. Draft EAC standards disseminated during the awareness forums.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC leads the development to National Food Balance Sheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC national staff work with COMPETE to identify, register and train new private sector RFBS contributors in the 5 EAC countries. EAGC country offices organize, facilitate and provide secretarial services for National Food Balance Sheet Committee meetings in the 5 EAC countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of registered RFBS data contributors Updated and maintained regional Food Balance Sheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National FBS meeting held in Nairobi in June 2013, Kampala and Dar es Salaam in Dec .2013. Follow ups at national level on private sector contributors is ongoing. 83 private sector contributors recruited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local staff travel to identify new warehouses Local staff and IT expert travel to install RTVT to new warehouses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of warehouses participating in RTVT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow ups at national level on RTVT data contributors is ongoing. IT Consultant travelled to install RTVT in new warehouses in Kenya and Burundi.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to recruit and train Market Monitors Carry out field visits to supervise market and border monitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of engaged monitors RATIN website updated daily with market information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 market & Border monitors engaged Continuous RATIN updates